

to meet for a hearing re Cybersquatting and Consumer Protection: Ensuring Domain Name Integrity, during the session of the Senate on Thursday, July 22, 1999, at 2:00 p.m., in SD-628.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, July 22, 1999 at 2:00 p.m. to hold a closed hearing on intelligence matters.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE YEAR 2000 TECHNOLOGY PROBLEM

Mr. GREGG. Mr. president, I ask unanimous consent that the Special Committee on the Year 2000 Technology Problem be permitted to meet on July 22, 1999 at 9:30 a.m. for the purpose of conducting a hearing.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON FORESTS & PUBLIC LAND MANAGEMENT

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Forests & Public Land Management of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be granted permission to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, July 22, for purposes of conducting a subcommittee hearing which is scheduled to begin at 2:00 p.m. The purpose of this hearing is to receive testimony from the U.S. General Accounting Office on a recent GAO report, 99-166, regarding Forest Service land management priorities. Within this context, GAO will also provide an evaluation of Title I and Title II of S. 1320, a bill to provide the Federal land management agencies the authority and capability to manage effectively the Federal lands, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON NEAR EASTERN AND SOUTH ASIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, July 22, 1999 at 10:00 a.m. to hold a hearing.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

FULBRIGHT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM AND THE TIBETAN EXCHANGE PROGRAM

• Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I am a strong supporter of international exchange programs. Americans benefit from an opportunity to work and study abroad. Foreigners benefit from time

in the United States both in their professional development and by exposure to the American system and values. Exchanges are a proven way to disperse American principals of freedom and democracy around the world. Therefore, I am disappointed that the committee report recommends reducing funding for several exchange programs, including the funding for students, scholars and teachers portion of the Fulbright Program. The Fulbright Program has served America and Americans very well for many years. It is not in our best interest to reduce funding for it at this time. I would hope that all of the programs on the committees reprioritization list will be carefully evaluated before any decision is made to reduce or eliminate them.

The Tibetan Fulbright Program touches Vermonters very close to home. Ngawang Choephel, a Tibetan exile living in India, was the recipient of a Fulbright Scholarship and studied ethnomusicology at Middlebury College in Middlebury, Vermont. He was unjustly arrested by the Chinese in 1995 in his native Tibet when he returned to document traditional Tibetan music. Although this young man's time in Vermont was brief, the passion he threw into his work to preserve endangered Tibetan culture gained him a large following in my state. His case is of the highest priority for me and the other members of Vermont's congressional delegation. Senator LEAHY has joined me in offering an amendment to this legislation to ensure that the Tibetan Exchange Program continues in fiscal year 2000.

I hope that in conference the necessary changes will be made to ensure adequate funding for our most important exchange programs.●

ON THE PASSING OF COACH RALPH TASKER

• Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to speak on the life of a legendary figure in New Mexico sports history.

Ralph Tasker, the dean of New Mexico high school boys basketball, died earlier this week at the age of 80.

In New Mexico, you didn't have to refer to Ralph Tasker by name; you only had to say "Coach" and everyone knew who that was.

He coached in Hobbs for decades, and was known throughout our state as a superb teacher of the game of Basketball.

Ralph Tasker leaves behind an enduring legacy forged with the Hobbs Eagles, coaching 52 seasons in Lea County.

During that time, he amassed 1,122 wins with only 291 losses. That's almost an 80% winning record; a record difficult to achieve in any sport, at any level.

His teams won 12 state championships.

He was also recognized as the National Coach of the year.

He retired in 1998 as the third winningest head coach in the history of boys high school basketball in the United States and was elected to the National High School Coach Association Hall of Fame.

With all those accolades, if you asked Ralph Tasker what he was most proud of, he would tell you he was most proud of the hard work, dedication, and educational achievements of the young men on his teams.

When opposing teams prepared to play a Ralph Tasker-coached team, they knew they would face a disciplined and well-motivated team.

Coach Tasker knew the value of team work and inspired young men to respect one another as they worked together toward a common goal.

Coach Tasker coached and stood for the kind of ideals that we as state and country aspire as we work to motivate and teach young people.

I extend my condolences to his three children, Nancy, Diane, and Tim and to his four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

New Mexicans appreciate Coach Tasker's life, and we will always remember his great achievements on and off the court.●

RETIREMENT OF ROBERT TOBIAS

• Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I rise today to acknowledge the retirement of Robert Tobias, President of the National Treasury Employees Union. I would like to take a moment to recognize the hard work and accomplishments of Mr. Tobias who, during a career with the NTEU of 31 years, has served as a prominent advocate for the over 155,000 federal employee members of the Union.

Under Bob's leadership, the NTEU has grown to become the nation's largest independent federal employees union, representing workers from 18 government agencies. Bob is one of the foremost authorities on federal employee issues and has been a vital resource to those of us who work on Capitol Hill, to the agencies he represents and throughout the federal government. Bob is highly respected among labor relations specialists as well. He has been instrumental in developing and enacting major legislation affecting federal employees including, creation and implementation of the Federal Employees Retirement System, pay parity issues, and he served as a member of the bipartisan National Commission Restructuring the IRS whose work was the basis for the comprehensive IRS reform legislation passed in the 105th Congress.

Furthermore, Bob has been successful in numerous landmark legal battles impacting employee rights in court and before various federal oversight bodies, such as the Merit Systems Protection Board, the Federal Labor Relations Authority and the Office of Personnel Management.

Again, I commend Mr. Tobias for his invaluable work on behalf of federal